Ph.D. Synopsis

Title: History of Education in Bengal during Early Medieval Period: A Study

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Introduction:

Education is an integral part for developing civilization in every Country. We all concerned about origin and evolution of Education in India, but in the study a historical analysis would be made on the Educational conditions of Bengal during early medieval period. Education is a powerful instrument for individual and social development. It is indeed difficult to determine the system and nature of education in ancient Bengal; moreover these are ample evidence of the flourishing conditions of nourishment of various branches of knowledge in ancient Bengal. However early medieval period was the most remarkable for the developing a specific mode of education system in Bengal. The Pala period was remarkable for Buddhist education and also development of Sanskrit literature. The period of Senas is considered to be a golden period for the cultivation of various branches of knowledge through Sanskrit language and the extend texts best testimony to it.

In this study the researcher would like to analyze the educational conditions of Bengal during early medieval period with reference to social conditions. This study will also be conducted to identify the changes occurred in the society during this period along with the development of education system in Bengal during early mediaeval period. The study will intend to focus the comparative roles of the Pala and Sena dynasties of Bengal during early medieval period regarding the educational changes.

Theoretical Framework:

- **Early Medieval Period in India**: The term 'early medieval' is more significance regarding the discussion on Indian History basically ancient Indian history. Many Scholars and Historians used the term for differentiating this period from early times. Normally, we considered from 8^{th} century A.D. to 13^{th} century A.D. as early medieval period in India. So many changes had been found in this period such as, rise of regional kingdom, decline of money economy, trade and commerce, rise of Feudalism, development of regional language and literature etc. Thus, this period is called early medieval period in the context of Indian history.

- **Vedic Education:** The education system which was evolved first in ancient India is known as the Vedic system of education. We can say that the ancient system of education which based on the Vedas and therefore it was given the name Vedic educational system. According to A.S. Altekar, "Vedic education system based on Vedas". The objectives of Vedic education were physical development, moral development, and development of religious thought of a man. And also formation of character, development of personality, inclusion of civil and social duties, promotion social efficiency happiness, preservation and spared of culture may be described as the chiefs of Vedic education. The basic aim of Vedic education was self-sacrifice and salvation.
- **Buddhist Education:** The concept of Buddhist philosophy made a new education system which was popularly known as Buddhist education in ancient India. So many objectives were there in Buddhist education but the ultimate aim of Buddhist education was to attain salvation by renunciation and education for monkhood. The chief aims of Buddhist education were**:** (i) all round development of man including physical, mental, moral, and intellectual development. (ii) Formation of student character. (iii) Religious aim was also important there. Buddhist Education taught to achieve salvation. (iv). Four noble truths were important here such as Life is suffering, there is a cause of suffering, there is cessation of suffering, there is a way leading to cessation of suffering.
- **BrahmanicEducation:**Brahmanic education was also important in ancient India for developing education structure. It was refined from Vedic education. The objectives of Brahmanic education were self control of a man, formation of character, social awareness, development of personality and preservation of knowledge and culture. Various subjects had been taught such as arithmetic, geometry, grammar, economy, civics, agriculture and military science etc. The ultimate aim of Brahmanic Education was attainment of truth by self-realization.
- **Early Medieval Bengal:** Bengal was also influenced by the nature and characteristics of early medieval period. The early medieval Bengal also witnessed for rise of local dynasties, system of land grant, development of Bengali literature and language etc.
- **Early Medieval Educational conditions in Bengal:** Education system, structure of education, nature and levels of education, standard of education, higher education

which prevailed early medieval period of Bengal, which has been accepted as educational conditions.

Objectives of Study:

1. To study the educational scenario in Bengal during early medieval period.
2. To identify and analyze the various changes had been found in education and social conditions in Bengal during early medieval period.
3. To evaluate the Educational Conditions in Bengal under the rules of Palas.
4. To evaluate the Educational Conditions in Bengal under the rules of Senas.
5. To compare the roles of Pala and Sena dynasties of Bengal during early medieval period regarding the educational changes.
6. To estimate the interrelationship of changes occurred in society and education in Bengal during early medieval period.

Area of Study:

This Study will be conducted with educational conditions of Bengal during early medieval period. I shall discuss the social & educational conditions in the specific zone of Bengal, special reference to the northern part of Bengal, Gauda. Some more districts will also be taken from the southern part of modern Bengal (Burdwan, Birbhum).

Literature Review:

Several books, Literature studies were either written or organized by many authors, scholar & historians in the different issues during early medieval period in Bengal such as, Bangalir Itihasa: Adi Parva by Niharranjan Ray, The History of Bengal by R.C. Majumdar, The University of Nalanda by H.D. Sankalia, The Making Early Medieval India by B.D.Chattapadhyaya, India's Ancient Past by R.S.Sharma, A History of Education by Nurullah and Naik, BangaSahityaParichaya-II by D.C. Sen, Some Aspect of Society in Bengal by T.C. Dasgupta, Women's Education in Eastern India by Jogesh Chandra Bagal, The Early History of Bengal by byPramode Lal Pal, BangalirItihasa by Rakhaldas Banerjee, Gauda-Raja-Mala by Ramaprasad Chanda, The Fall of Pala Empire by Akshaya

Kumar Maitreya, Political Centers and Cultural Regions in Early Bengal by Barrie . M. Morrison.

Niharranjan Ray's Bangalir Itihasa: Adi Parva discussed on the origin of Bengali peoples and nature and characteristics of the land of ancient Bengal. This work also traced on economic life, caste patterns, class patterns, village and towns and administrative patterns of Bengal. The author also focused on Religious thought and practices, language, literature and learning and also the Fine Arts and Music. R.C. Majumdar's History of Bengal gave a systematic account of ancient Bengal. H.D. Sankalia's The University of Nalanda discussed on the origin and evaluation, contemporary educational institutions, roles of Teachers, nature of students, content, teaching methods etc. B.D. Chattapadhyaya's The Making of Early Medieval India traced on social, economic, religious and cultural conditions of India during early medieval period.

Among the modern works, Brahmanic Settlements in different divisions of Bengal by Puspa Niyogi, Everyday Life in Pala Empire by Sahanara Hussain, Some Historical Aspects of the Inscription of Bengal Binoy Chandra Sen, Aspects of Economic History of Bengal by Kamrunnesa Islam, Historical Geography of Ancient and Early Medieval Bengal by Amitabha Bhattacharyya, Social and Religious Life in Bengal Inscriptions by Ratikanta Tripathi, Some Aspects of Socio-economic History of Early Medieval Bengal by Bedasruti Bhattacharya, The State and Society in Early Medieval Bengal by Soumantra Mitra .

Puspa Niyogi expressed her idea on among the modern works, Settlements in different divisions of Bengal. Sahanara Hussain gave a systematic account on Pala Empire of Bengal during early medieval period. Bedasruti Bhattacharya discussed of her work on socio-economic history of Bengal during early medieval period.

Some important studies based on inscriptional sources such as, Inscriptions of Bengal- vol.-III by Nani Gopal Majumdar, Gauda-lekha-mala by Akshaya Kumar Maitreya.

But no one researcher conducted his or her study on the social and educational conditions in Bengal and their interrelationship during early medieval period. Therefore, a gap in the area of knowledge is existed. To bridge this gap of knowledge and to analyze the social and educational conditions during early medieval period of Bengal, this study will be conducted.

Key Research Questions:

1. What was the education condition in Bengal during early medieval period?
2. What were the changes occurred in Education system during Early Medieval Period in Bengal?
3. What were the relationship in various changes occurred in Society and Education in Bengal during Early Medieval Period?
4. What were the roles of Palas in Educational Changes during Early Medieval Period?
5. What were the roles of Senas in Educational Changes during Early Medieval Period
6. What were the differences and Similarities in the changes of Educational Conditions occurred during Pala and Senas Dynasties?

Methodology:

As methodology of the study, historical approach will be used for collection of data. Initially the list of primary sources will be prepared by me in consultation with the expert, review literature and historian. After preparing list of primary sources each and every sources, materials will be analyze to find out the relevant issues. Next a list of secondary sources also be prepared for collection of necessary data and information, those will also be analyzed and to be identified the relevant data. Then data will be collected from the historian expert and research studies.

The method of historical analysis will be adopted to verify the objectives and research questions of the study.

Chapterization:

First Chapter : Introduction, Objectives, Area of Study & Definition of key words.
Second Chapter : Educational Conditions of Bengal during early medieval period.
Third Chapter : Educational developments in Bengal under the rules of Palas.
Fourth Chapter : Educational developments in Bengal under the rules of Senas.
Fifth Chapter : Comparative roles of Pala and Sena Dynasties of Bengal in Educational Development.
Sixth Chapter : Interrelationship of changes occurred in society and education in Bengal during early medieval period.

Seventh Chapter : Summary and Discussion.

Based on the analysis and logical dedication of data/information, the conclusion will be made on the educational conditions and changes along with the turning points of educational development.

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Sources:

The sources of historical research can be classified into two categories, (i) Primary Sources, (ii) Secondary Sources. The data of the study will be collected from both and primary and secondary sources as far as practicable.

Primary Sources:

The following primary sources may be used on this topic, such as, *KhalimpurTamrapatta*, *Aryamanjushrimulakalpa*, *MungarLipi of Dharma Pala*, *Badal Pillar inscription of Dev Pala*, *Bangarh and Tripura Lipi*, *Sarnathlipi*, *Ramcharita by Sandhyakar Nandi*, *Paharpur Inscription*, *Buddha Naya Shastra*, *Tibut Buddhist Literature*, *Gitagovindo by Joydava*, *Kusumanjali by Udayana*, *Mimansa by Udayana*, *Tantarapradipa by Maitreya-Rakshita*, *Tikasarvasa&Sarandeva by UjjvalaDatta*, *Amarkosa by Subhuti Candra*, *Ayurvedadipika&Bhanumati by CakrapaniDatta*, *Cikitsa-Samagraha by Cakrapani Dutta*, *Jimutvahana*, *Sulapani&Raghunandana*, *Kamruli Inscription of Vaidya Deva*, *Jalhana'sSaktipiyavali&Padyavali*, *Kadambarikathasara by GauraAbhinanda*, *Udaysundarikatha of Sodhdhall*, *Markendeya Purana*, *Kavindravacanasamuccaya*,

Taranatha's History and Sumpa's Pag-Sam-Jon-Jang, Tattvasamgraha by Santaraksita, Ratnavali by Kumaracandra, ChaitanayaBhagvata by Vrindavandas.

Puranas:*Bhavisyamahapurana, Brahmavaivartapurana, Brhaddharmapurana, Brhannaradiyapurana, Devipurana.*

Dharmasastras:*BaudhayanaDharmasastras, Dharmasutras: The Law Codes of Apastamba, Gautama, Baudhayana, Brahmanasarvasva of Halayudha.*

Danasagara of Vallalasena, Haralata of Aniruddha, Jimutavahana'sDayabhaga, Kalaviveka of Jimutavahana, Manusmrti with the Commentary of Kullukabhatta, Naradasmrti.

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